

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20

OMB-01 L-03 H-02 RSR-01 /103 W
----- 000977

R 080440 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1176

INFO SECDEF

JCS

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4378

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: US AIR OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA

1. ON 7 MAY, MR. SIDNEY SCHANBERG OF THE NEW YORK TIMES WAS GRANTED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE, COL BURNELL. THE DISCUSSION, WHICH WAS NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION, CENTERED ON THE SUBJECT OF U. S. AIR OPERATIONS IN THE GKR.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON THE EMBASSY' S ROLE IN U. S. AIR OPERATIONS THE DEFENSE ATTACHE LIMITED HIS RESPONSES TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE STAFF REPORT OF THE SUB- COMMITTEE OF THE FRC, US SENATE, ENTITLED " US AIR OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA: APRIL 1973" . TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS WERE MADE:

A. THE DEFENSE ATTACHED OFFICE IS NO LONGER SCREENING TACTICAL AIR REQUESTS FROM THE FANK. THE KHMER ARMED FORCES NOW HAVE THEIR OWN DIRECT AIR SUPPORT CENTER, ABLE TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH U. S. FAC' S CAND THE ABCCC (AIRBORNER COMMAND POST). THIS
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ARRANGEMENT IS NOW POSSIBLE THROUGH THE AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED PERSONNEL NOT PREVIOUSLY ON HAND.

B. THE EMBASSY PANEL REFERRED TO IN THE REPORT CONTINUES TO OPERATE. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT IS NO LONGER HEADED BY THE DCM, BUT THE AMBASSADOR. A RESCHEDULING OF ITS DAILY MEETINGS PERMITS GREATER PARTICIPATION BY THE AMBASSADOR. OTHER THAN THIS COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURES REMAIN AS REPORTED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE EMBASSY HAS DISCLOSED TO THE PRESS THE SHIFT IN HANDLING TACTICAL AIR OPERATIONS.
SWANK

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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JCS
SECSTATE WASHDC
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

